

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device, comprising an elongated body including a lumen and an elongated member extending within the lumen;
a distal tip coupled to the body, the distal tip ~~[[and]]~~ including a canted passageway extending distally from the lumen of the body, and an opening terminating the passageway, the opening ~~[[and]]~~ positioned in proximity to a distal end of the distal tip, and the opening being oriented in a plane approximately parallel with a longitudinal axis of the distal tip; and
a helical fixation element coupled to the elongated member and adapted to deflect along the canted passageway of the distal tip, ~~the helical fixation member being flexible;~~
wherein the elongated member is adapted to move the helical element through the passageway of the distal tip and out the opening, and to rotate the helical element thereby affixing the helical element into an implant site.
2. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element deflects by means of a flexible coupling with the elongated member.
3. (Original) The medical device of claim 2, wherein the flexible coupling comprises a cable.
4. (Original) The medical device of claim 2, wherein the flexible coupling comprises a spring.
5. (Original) The medical device of claim 2, wherein the flexible coupling is pre-formed to conform to a curvature of the canted passageway.

6. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device comprising:
an elongated body including a lumen and an elongated member extending within the lumen;
a distal tip coupled to the body, the distal tip ~~[[and]]~~ including a canted passageway extending distally from the lumen of the body, and an opening terminating the passageway; the opening ~~[[and]]~~ positioned in proximity to a distal end of the distal tip, and the opening being oriented in a place approximately parallel with a longitudinal axis of the distal tip; and
a helical fixation element coupled to the elongated member and adapted to deflect along the canted passageway of the distal tip;
wherein the elongated member is adapted to move the helical element through the passageway of the distal tip and out the opening, and to rotate the helical element thereby affixing the helical element into an implant site, wherein the helical fixation element deflects by flexing along its length.
7. (Original) The medical device of claim 6, wherein the helical fixation element includes a pitch change facilitating the deflection along its length.

8. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device comprising:
an elongated body including a lumen and an elongated member extending within the lumen;
a distal tip coupled to the body, the distal tip ~~[[and]]~~ including a canted passageway extending distally from the lumen of the body, and an opening terminating the passageway; the opening ~~[[and]]~~ positioned in proximity to a distal end of the distal tip, and being oriented in a plane approximately parallel with a longitudinal axis of the distal tip; and
a helical fixation element coupled to the elongated member and adapted to deflect along the canted passageway of the distal tip;
wherein the elongated member is adapted to move the helical element through the passageway of the distal tip and out the opening, and to rotate the helical element thereby affixing the helical element into an implant site, wherein the helical fixation element is pre-formed along its length to conform to a curvature of the canted passageway.
9. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element comprises a platinum-iridium alloy.
10. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element comprises a super-elastic metal.
11. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element comprises a synthetic resin.
12. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises a conductor and the helical fixation element comprises an electrode.

13. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the body further includes an elongated conductor extending therein and the distal tip further includes an electrode coupled to the conductor.

14. (Original) The medical device of claim 13, wherein the electrode is positioned adjacent to and distal to the opening of the distal tip.

15. (Original) The medical device of claim 13, wherein the electrode is positioned adjacent to and proximal to the opening of the distal tip.

16. (Currently Amended) medical device of claim 1, wherein the distal tip further includes an asymmetrical radial section, the radial section being approximately perpendicular to the plane of the opening and facilitating orientation of the opening of the distal tip toward the implant site.

17. (Original) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the asymmetrical radial section is generally bell-shaped.

18. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the elongated body includes a curved distal portion in proximity to the coupling with the distal tip, the curved distal portion facilitating orientation of the opening of the distal tip toward the implant site.

19. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device comprising:
an elongated body including a lumen and an elongated member extending within the lumen;
a distal tip coupled to the body, the distal tip ~~[[and]]~~ including a canted passageway extending distally from the lumen of the body, and an opening terminating the passageway; the opening ~~[[and]]~~ positioned in proximity to a distal end of the distal tip, and the opening being oriented in a plane approximately parallel with a longitudinal axis of the distal tip; and
a helical fixation element coupled to the elongated member and adapted to deflect along the canted passageway of the distal tip;
wherein the elongated member is adapted to move the helical element through the passageway of the distal tip and out the opening, and to rotate the helical element thereby affixing the helical element into an implant site, wherein the distal tip further includes a radiopaque marker facilitating orientation of the opening of the distal tip toward the implant site via fluoroscopic visualization.
20. (Original) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the marker includes an indicator indicating whether the opening of the tip is directed generally toward or away from a plane coinciding with that of the implant site.
21. (Original) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the marker includes an indicator indicating a degree to which the opening is angled with respect to a plane coinciding with that of the implant site.

22. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device comprising:
an elongated body including a lumen and an elongated member extending within
the lumen;
a distal tip coupled to the body, the distal tip ~~[[and]]~~ including a canted
passageway extending distally from the lumen of the body, and an
opening terminating the passageway; the opening ~~[[and]]~~ positioned in
proximity to a distal end of the distal tip, and the opening being
oriented in a plane approximately parallel with a longitudinal axis of the
distal tip; and
a helical fixation element coupled to the elongated member and adapted to
deflect along the canted passageway of the distal tip;
wherein the elongated member is adapted to move the helical element through
the passageway of the distal tip and out the opening, and to rotate the
helical element thereby affixing the helical element into an implant site,
wherein the elongated member includes a fluid delivery lumen and the helical
fixation member includes a fluid infusion lumen in fluid communication with
the fluid delivery lumen in order that a desired fluid may be infused out
from the opening of the distal tip.